

CHARACTERS OF A NEW SPECIES OF PIGEON
OF THE GENUS *ENGYPTILA*, FROM THE
ISLAND OF GRENADA, WEST INDIES.

BY GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

Engyptila wellsii.

Female: The front is whitish, with a slight tinge of fawn color on the anterior portion, and is of a bluish cast on the posterior; the crown and occiput are dark brown; the hind neck is of a rather lighter brown; the back, wings, and upper tail-coverts are of a dull olivaceous-green; the first outer tail-feather is brownish-black, narrowly tipped with white; the second is dark brown for two-thirds its length, terminating in blackish; all the other tail-feathers are dark umber brown above, are black underneath; the chin is white; the neck in front and the upper part of the breast are of a reddish fawn color; the middle and lower parts of the breast and the abdomen are creamy-white; the sides are of a light fulvous color; the under tail-coverts are white, tinged with fulvous; the quills have their outer webs of a clear warm brown; the inner webs and under wing-coverts are of a rather light cinnamon color; the bill is black; the tarsi and toes are bright carmine red.

Mr. Wells says the sexes are alike. Length 10.25 inches; wing, 6.00; tail, 4.00; bill, .63; tarsus, 1.25.

Habitat: Island of Grenada.

Type in National Museum, Washington.

Remarks. In coloration this species bears no resemblance to any other member of the genus: it is of about the size of my *E. cassini* from Panama, and like that, it has the front light colored (though of a different shade) and the chin white; but they are unlike in all other particulars.

I have named it in compliment to James G. Wells, Esq., of Grenada, by whom it was obtained.

Mr. Wells has been collecting the birds of Grenada for some time, and sending them for identification as they were procured, having in view the publication of a list of the birds of the Island, with his observations thereon.

Sometime since Mr. Wells sent me as complete a list of the birds of the Island as he was able to make out at that time. On this list one of the species was enumerated as 'Pea Dove' but no specimens of it were ever sent. I wrote him that its determination was important, and to endeavor to procure examples. He replied that he was unable then to visit the district inhabited by

it. But a few days ago I was much pleased to receive by mail the specimen now described, and agreeably surprised to find it an undetermined species.

He says: "Since I last wrote you, I have been able to procure four live specimens of the Dove, called 'Pea Dove' in my list: one of them died a day or two ago, and I send you the skin, which will serve to identify the bird."

On the label is "Pea Dove, ♀, Sp.? Caught alive at Fontenoy, St. Georges, Grenada, 16 Feb., 1884. Iris pale buff."

RECENT LITERATURE.

Stejneger on the American Turdidæ.*—The so-called 'family' Turdidæ is here taken in nearly its usually accepted sense, except that the Miminiæ, so frequently embraced within it, are excluded, leaving the group as here treated nearly equivalent to the Turdinæ of Mr. Seebohm's late monograph of the family.† Dr. Stejneger begins his memoir by sharply criticizing Mr. Seebohm's generic groups among the 'Turdinæ,' the construction of which he considers "very radical and opposed to commonly accepted views"; and states that his own paper "may be regarded as a reaction provoked by the arrangement proposed in the above mentioned work." Dr. Stejneger believes that the test "of color or pattern of color as the only character which indicates near relationship," as applied by Mr. Seebohm, is arbitrary and leads to inconsistent results; and he devotes several pages to 'showing up' some of these inconsistencies, and in pointing out that structural characters are much sounder indices of relationship. He believes that Professor Baird's arrangement of the American Thrushes, in his 'Review of American birds,' though presented 'sixteen to eighteen years ago,' 'is still the best treatment of the subject extant.' He modifies this arrangement, however, by throwing out the Mocking Thrushes, and adding the so-called 'family' Saxicolidæ. In this he is in accord with the views of several recent writers on the subject. The family Turdidæ, as thus restricted, he divides into two sub-families, viz., Turdinæ (sub-divided into the groups Sialieæ, Saxicoleæ, Turdeæ, Luscinieæ, and Meruleæ), and Myadestinæ (sub-divided into Platycichleæ and Myadestææ). The group Sialieæ includes two genera,—*Ridgwayia* (gen. nov., type *Turdus pinicola* Scl.) and *Sialia*. The group Saxicoleæ

* Remarks on the Systematic Arrangement of the American Turdidæ. By Leonard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1882, pp. 449-483, with numerous cuts. Feb. 13, 1883.

† Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, Vol. V, 1881. (See review of this work in Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VIII, pp. 99-104.)